



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date	04-24-00	Interpretation #	00-004
Topic	Water Supply for High-Rise Buildings on Same Property		
Code Section(s)	§403.2.1(2), California Building Code (1998 ed.)		
Requested by	Jaymae Wentker City of Mountain View 500 Castro Street Mountain View, CA 94039-7540		
Prepared by	Joe Garcia, Division Chief (559) 437-1514		

SCENARIO: A developer wishes to construct two eleven-story high-rise apartment buildings (Group R, Division 1 Occupancies) on a single piece of property. The buildings stand alone and are not connected to one another in any way. Due to the height of the buildings, the available water supply, and the capabilities of our fire department, this project will need fire pumps to provide the required water and pressure for the sprinkler system as well as for the City required Class III standpipe system.

Can a single secondary on-site water storage tank and pump be used to supply both buildings or would each building require its own, stand-alone water tank and pump?

In this particular case, a single secondary on-site water storage tank and pump can be used to supply both buildings if the following conditions are provided:

1. Both buildings are on the same property.
2. Both buildings are owned by the same person.
3. The capacity of the tank and pump must be calculated for both buildings.
4. Minimum required separation is provided between both buildings.
5. Monitoring for the tank and pump must be connected to the fire alarm system of both buildings.

COMMENT: If one of the buildings is sold (separating ownership) or if the parcel is divided, the code requirements as outlined in Section 403.2.1(2) would be fully applicable to each building and, therefore, each building would require a separate secondary water supply storage tank and pump.